Charas seized in Delhi

1878. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Times of India of 14th January, 1986 to the effect that charas worth Rs. 12 lakhs was seized in capital; and

(b) whether any arrest has been made and the action taken by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) Yes. On the basis of a tip off a joint raid was organised by the district police and the Excise department of Delhi Administration, and about 208 kgs. of charas was seized on 12-1-1986 in Kirti Nagar, whose value in the local market is estimated at about Rs. 12 lakhs.

(b) Investigation of the case is in progress. Efforts are being made to trace the accused.

Directive regarding priority of the U.S. star wars programme

1879. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported directive of US Defence Secretary to raise President Regan's star wars to the highest priority among the Pentagon Programmes; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard in view of its impact on prospects for maintenance of world peace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes Sir. Government have seen press reports to this effect.

(b) Government of India is of the view that it is necessary to take urgent measures to prevent an arms race in Outer Space. This view has been put forward forcefully at a number of international forums.

Racket in forged university degrees and certificates

1880. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a racket in forged university degrees/certificates was unearthed in West Delhi towards the end of January, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the particulars of persons apprehended in connection therewith?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) Yes.

(b) On the basis of a tip off, Delhi Police conducted a raid and recovered forge certificates and seals of Agra University from one Guruji Coaching Centre, Chand Nagar, Delhi. The rubber stamp seals were those of the "Deputy Registrar Examination, Agra University, Agra". A file folder was seized containing some blank forms and certificates with the seal of Deputy Registrar Examination, Agra University.

(c) A case u/s 473/474 IPC was registered and two persons viz., Shiv-Charan and his son Rakesh Kumar have been arrested.

Age limit for Civil Services Examination

1881. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been persistent demand for restoring the maxi-

mum age limit for the Civil Services Examination to 28 years, from 26 years, the level to which it was reduced in 1983;

(b) whether there has also been a demand for coaching centre for Civil Services Examination candidates in backward areas; and

(c) if so, what is Government's response to these demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The Government has been receiving representations regarding retention of upper age limit for the Civil Services Examinations at 28 years. The Government's objective is to recruit, under strict competitive conditions, young men and women fresh from graduation and to train and mould them to suit the behavioural and skills requirements of the Civil Services. This objective had been eroded by the upper age limit of 28 years introduced in 1979. It was after very careful consideration and thorough examination of all aspects of the matter that Government took a decision in 1983 to reduce the upper age limit for appearing in the Civil Services Examination from 28 to 26 years effective from 1985 examination. The Government has always been anxious to give effect to this decision. However, on representations from students who could not avail of more than one chance within the reduced upper age limit after the decision regarding the reduction was declared in 1983, it was decided in 1985 to postpone the implementation of the decision to Civil Services Examination, 1985. Based on representations to defer the implementation of the decision in order to make available three chances to candidates, it was decided in January, 1986 to implement the decision regarding the age reduction with effect from the Civil Services Examination, 1987. While announcing this decision, Government has reaffirmed its resolve to implement the upper age limit of 26 years from the Civil Services Examination commencing in 1987.

As regards the request for setting up coaching centres in backward areas, the Government has agreed to it in principle. Since the matter requires considerable preparatory work, which has been initiated, it would not be possible to give any details.

Legislation to regulate lotteries

1882. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite a specific entry in the Union list of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India about Central and State Governments lotteries no appropriate law to regulate the same has so far been enacted;

(b) whether such a legislation is proposed to be brought before Parliament specially in view of the complaints of bungling and generation of black money through lotteries; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the nagative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) No Central Law has so far been enacted.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to bring in Central Legislation at present. Comprehensive guidelines with a view to curbing of malpractices and for regulating the conduct and operations of lotteries had been issued to the States and U.Ts. in June, 1984. These, *inter-alia*, provide for ceiling on prizes, prices of tickets and certain checks regarding printing of tickets and holding of draws.

Setting up of special flying squads

1883 SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether special flying squads to speedily respond to calls by women in